



BALANSA CLOVER

Trifolium michelianum Savi

Purpose & Fit

Balansa clover serves as an alternative to white and subterranean clovers in poor soil drainage and drought conditions with an excellent ability to suppress weeds. Reported to outproduce subterranean clover by 900% in saline/waterlogged areas, balansa clover will not cause bloat in grazing systems. Balansa clover is suitable for hay, silage, or green manure. A great alternative to white and subterranean clovers in poor soil drainage or drought conditions, balansa clover can produce more biomass at lower temperatures than most other clovers.

Growth Pattern

Balansa forms a 3-foot taproot with numerous offshoots that extend 30 – 35 inches deep. Leaves can have smooth or serrated edges and are hairless.

Climate & Soil

With greater tolerance than crimson clover, balansa clover can also exhibit heat tolerance up to a maximum of 79°F – 82°F. The average annual rainfall should reach at least 12 inches. Balansa clover will grow on soils ranging from clay soils to sandy soils, with tolerance for water-logged soils and flooding. Salinity tolerance is between 3 – 5 dS/m.

Planting

Winter active with peak growth in mid-spring, balansa clover can be broadcast with fertilizer in low rainfall areas with little competition. Weed control will be necessary when grown as a monoculture.

Grazing

Rotationally graze balansa clover instead of continually stocking, but discontinue grazing during the flowering stage to avoid stand damage and extend the length of the stand. Heavy, close grazing is possible and will often increase tillering. Balansa clover typically does not cause bloat.

Quick Data

Seeds/LB:
500,000

Optimum Growth Range:
45°F - 75°F

Seeding Depth:
0.25" - 0.50" Depth

Min Time To Emergence:
5 - 20 days

Planting Rate (Monoculture):
5 Lb/A - 8 Lb/A

Tons of Dry Matter an Acre:
2.7 - 3